

Health and Wellness Legislative Council Conference Call
March 17, 2020
10:00 a.m.
Minutes

The Maryland State Advisory Council on Health and Wellness held a conference call on 3/17/2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present

Mary Backley
Sumit Bassi
Jennifer Eastman
Mychelle Farmer
Gary Gerstenblith
Donna Gugel
Jessica Kiel
Namisa Kramer
Josie Ogaitis
Vivienne Rose
Jason Semanoff
Teresa Titus-Howard
Kristin Watson
Pamela Xenakis

MDH Staff Present

Maya Nirmalraj
Kristi Pier

Guests Present

Dawn Berkowitz

Members Not Present

Angela Deal
Lois Freeman
Margaret Gwaltney
Roger Harrell
Linda Kline
Julie Maneen
Seth Martin
David McShea
Aruna Nathan
Rachel Pigott
Cameron Pollock
Geeta Sharma
Anne Williams
Vanina Wolf

1. Open Legislative Council Meeting

Ms. Kiel called the Legislative Council meeting to order at 10:00 AM, held roll call and reviewed the agenda. Updates to both SB 952 (HB 1359) and SB 623 (HB 1360) were added to the agenda. Since the 2020 General Assembly is ending session on March 18, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all remaining scheduled weekly legislative calls are canceled.

2. Approve Minutes

Dr. Gerstenblith motioned to approve the February 25 minutes and Ms. Kramer seconded the motion. Ms. Backley motioned to approve the March 10 minutes and Dr. Gerstenblith seconded the motion. There will be an online vote for minutes.

3. Discuss HB 3 – Business Regulation – Flavored Tobacco Products -- Prohibitions

Dawn Berkowitz, Director, MDH Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control discussed the amendments to the **HB 3 3rd Reader**. One amendment in the 3rd reader creates a definition for a “Smoking Bar,” which creates confusion, increases the risk of exposure to secondhand smoke, and is in contrast with the Clean Indoor Air Act. Another amendment would exempt

open (refillable) electronic smoking devices from the flavor ban. The council discussed these amendments and whether to put forth a Letter of Information for the 3rd reader.

A decision was made on the call for all members to vote online on the Council's submission of the Letter of Information for HB 3. Twenty-three members voted; 17 members voted to approve the Council's submission of the Letter of Information; and 6 members abstained from voting.

Draft letters of support were written for both **SB 952 (HB 1359)** and **SB 623 (HB 1360)**, however because of the early General Assembly closure, these will be held until the possibility of a special session later in the year.

4. Open Comment from Public

There were no comments or questions from the public.

5. Close

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.